



COUNTY OF ERIE

OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Kathy Dahlkemper
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Chanel Cook
ccook@eriecountygov.org
814-451-7440

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 5, 2015

Erie County Encouraged by Presidential Announcement of New Marine Sanctuaries

Earlier today, President Obama announced that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is beginning the process to designate two new national marine sanctuaries. For the first time in two decades NOAA accepted applications from communities along the shores of the United States to be considered as national marine sanctuaries.

Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper extends her congratulations to the communities in Wisconsin and Maryland, who will begin the scoping process to explore the designation of their waters as national marine sanctuaries. This announcement marks the start of the public participatory process that is key to obtaining sanctuary designation.

"I extend my congratulations to these communities, and I look forward to submitting Erie County's application later this month. I am glad that the NOAA is actively acknowledging the importance of preserving the Great Lakes. It is imperative that we take action to preserve our cultural assets," urged Dahlkemper.

The National Marine Sanctuary in Thunder Bay, Michigan is currently the sole protected area along the Great Lakes.

County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper plans to submit the application for the Lake Erie Quadrangle later this month. This community - driven effort proposes to include all Lake Erie waters located in Pennsylvania, and protects the historical shipwrecks within those boundaries.

###